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purports to give a semi-popular account of the conditions and problems of the once "Dark Continent." Like the earlier work, the book is both entertaining and instructive. The author has successfully woven in enough history and tradition to touch off his up-to-date pictures and to show that the physical conditions operating in present day problems have been factors throughout the ages.

After a brief but informing presentation of the various sections of the continent—Northern Africa, The Desert, Oases, Egypt of the Ancients and of Today, The Nile, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern Africa, the discussion turns to several general questions of pertinence. His description of the desert is excellent, and his discussion of oases very informing.

In his discussion of "The Blacks in Africa," he says that they are inferior to the whites in many ways, but keener in some ways; and the conclusion is that the blacks should be elevated for what they are worth by concerted action of governments, merchants and teachers.

In "Everybody's Africa" the scramble for territory is described and the present partition outlined. An extensive bibliography is appended.

G. D. HUBBARD.

Entre le Niger et le Tchad et à l'Est et au Nord-Est du Tchad. Par

G. Garde. 284 pp. Maps, ills. A. Hermann et Fils, Paris, 1911.

This is one of the recent contributions destined to throw some light on that portion of north-central Africa lying east of the river Niger and beyond lake Chad, roughly to meridian 17° east of Greenwich. The author investigated it in the course of his field work as a member of the Tilho boundary commission (1906-1909). He treats the subject from the geologist's standpoint. As usual, however, the geologist has to depend to some extent on purely physiographic facts for the elucidation of geologic problems. As a result, two sets of data are available for the sifting of a few geographic notes.

The work is divided into two main parts. The first refers to the district beginning at the Niger's east bank and extending to the lake Chad basin. The second deals with this lake and the hydrographic system related to it. A brief allusion is also made to the interesting alkaline rocks of the Zinder and Mounio districts. The first part is subdivided into two parts, of which one is a description of the physical geography of the region while the other is restricted to its descriptive geology. Due importance is granted here to the action of erosive agencies whether aqueous or eolian.

As a whole, the work constitutes an excellent preliminary investigation of the evolution to the present stage of aridity of a region which was once exceedingly well-watered. The study of its physiography has placed a powerful tool in the author's hands for the deciphering of this gradual change. The evidence of former active fluvial erosion are the presence of wide valleys and isolated buttes, as on the Adar-Doutchi plateau. Aside from the decrease in the amount of atmospheric precipitation, this aridity of quite recent times is generally ascribed by Dr. Garde to the gradual dissolution of a ferruginous sandstone capping, remnants of which still form the uppermost layers of the resisting lumps of the dissected plateau.

The stratigraphic investigation led to simple conclusions. A basal crystalline band underlies the region. Above it rest detrital accumulations of a sandy-argillaceous character which sometimes attain thicknesses of over 100 meters. Fossiliferous limestones were found to be intercalated with the latter. The most important results in this field appear to be the discovery of a petrographic province characterized by the presence of alkaline rocks in which strong evidence of consanguinity to the igneous rocks of the Sudan region was revealed.

The main physical features of the lake Chad basin are clearly set forth. The lake is described as the remnant of a former extensive sheet of water. The evidence brought forward is not very conclusive, however. No mention is made of earlier shorelines illustrating former levels. On the other hand the presence of lacustrine deposits was recognized. The author insists on lake Chad being an independent outlet for the basin's watercourses. As a corollary to this assertion the existence of the lake is assumed to continue as long as it will be fed by this supply, of which the Shari river contributes a notable proportion.

The petrographic notes tend to show that the igneous rocks of the region are all products of a single magma. They are all siliceous. Students of African geology will find a comprehensive bibliography referring more especially to the region examined by the author, inserted at the very beginning of the work.

LEON DOMINIAN.

The Natives of Kharga Oasis, Egypt. By Aleš Hrdlička. vi and 118 pp.
Ills. *Smithsonian Miscell. Collections*, Vol. 59, No. 1, Washington, 1912.

In cooperation with the important work of archaeological research conducted by the Metropolitan Museum in the Nile Valley, the Smithsonian Institution commissioned Dr. Hrdlička to undertake the anthropological examination of the population of the Kharga Oasis. It is an obscure abode of men of scant moment in the great march of history which has swept for ages up and down the great valley of the Nile. Set apart by arid stretches of sand from the great civilizing movements this cluster of mankind has undergone the minimum of change. It has no history, for it has lived unnoticed, its poverty has attracted no conqueror and its only modifiers have come from the zeal of religious movements. All the record of the past takes up no more than a half dozen introductory pages of this monograph. Little more space is needed for the record of the present social condition of the oasis, a speck of fertile land where for immemorial centuries nothing has ever happened so continuously as to establish the rule that nothing happens now.

It is primitive soil for the operations of physical anthropology, Dr. Hrdlička has reaped it most closely up to the point where religious convention put a stop to his investigation. The Oriental taboo of women has prevented the extension of his studies on the distaff side. Within the area thus left open to him the author's observations have been singularly complete. In table massed upon table he gives us the most extensive record of the physical measurements of the Kharga men. Nor does this by any means complete his idea of what such work should be. Each of the critical indices of measurement is discussed independently, and where the author establishes comparison with neighbor folk the result is always most enlightening. This monograph is most earnestly to be commended to anthropologists as setting a model for the presentation of the results of such study.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

ASIA

Biblical Geography and History. By Charles Foster Kent. xviii and 296 pp. Maps, index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1911. \$1.50. 7½ x 5.

Professor Kent's book on Palestine is a good illustration of the fact that geography, in the broader sense, is still in its early youth. It is written in a clear simple style, the arrangement and proportion of parts are admirable, and the book as a whole gives the reader a clear conception of many of the most important ways in which the physical form of Palestine has influenced its history. Nevertheless the modern geographer reads it with the feeling that from the standpoint of the latest developments in his science it is lacking in certain important respects. Journalists, statesmen, theologians, soldiers and men of various other professions write books on geography, and often succeed in producing work of genuine value. In the present stage of his science, the geographer welcomes such volumes, yet he regrets that they are almost sure to be largely empirical.

The work under review falls into the class of the better geographical works written by men who make no claim to be geographical specialists. The first seventy pages are devoted to a painstaking and minute description of the location, boundaries and general appearance of each of the main divisions of Palestine, but in no case is any use made of the modern science of physiography and its nomenclature. The chapter on Jerusalem is one of the best in the book, since more than almost any other it presents a concrete case of cause and effect. The next section is a chapter devoted to the interesting subject of the highways of